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Hoekstra Statement on Iraq NIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, issued the following statement on the Iraq National Intelligence Estimate:

“The latest Iraq NIE in many respects tells us what we already know. The situation in Iraq is extraordinarily difficult. There are no easy solutions.

“The NIE makes clear that we cannot continue the same stubborn strategy that has brought us to this point in Iraq. It also makes clear that we cannot just pull our forces out as if that decision can be made in a vacuum and without consequence.

“America has a commitment to keeping our nation and our families safe. We have a responsibility to ensure that Iraq does not become a safe haven now or in the future for terrorists to plot and execute attacks against the United States or our interests abroad.

“The focus for Congress and the administration should be on developing strategies that allow us to move ahead and increase the capabilities of Iraq’s people, leaders, military and security forces to address internal Iraqi issues.

“New standards for Iraq’s government, its military and police and for increased regional cooperation between Iraq and its neighbors must be established. There are several paths before us in Iraq, but it is absolutely necessary that Iraq’s citizens and leaders do more to secure the future of their country.”